

Executive Registry
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18 MAY 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Executive Secretary, CIA Management Committee

FROM : Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : National Intelligence Survey Program

1. Action Requested: I am proposing in paragraph 4 of this memorandum that you seek USIB approval for abolishing the National Intelligence Survey (NIS) Program.

2. Background: An extensive study of the NIS Program, recently completed at my request by the Director, Basic and Geographic Intelligence, is forwarded herewith for your consideration. The current NIS Program involves the production of General Surveys on 124 countries at a rate of 30 per year as well as a worldwide Factbook updated semiannually. These NIS publications are widely used at middle and lower echelons, with the greatest use being generally in the field and among DoD components and contractors, as a primary source of basic intelligence.

The current program has certain drawbacks. It calls for a considerable amount of resources from this Agency while serving a relatively low-priority audience. The interagency character of the program requires extensive coordination with State, DIA, the military services, and contractors. Furthermore, NIS updating schedules tend to be disrupted by tasks of a higher priority.

CLASSIFIED BY 011468
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF E.O. 11652, EXEMPTION CATEGORY: § 5E(1), (2), (3) or (4) (circle one or more) AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Date Impossible to Determine. (unless impossible, insert date or event)

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3. Staff Position: A number of options are presented in the NIS study which would cut back the program and sharply reduce the resources allocated to it. My preference is to abolish the program altogether on the grounds that the primary users are outside this Agency and that this is an intelligence activity of no direct benefit to policymakers. If you feel that outright abolishment is too drastic a measure, I would prefer that the program be sharply reduced along the lines of Option C(2) of the attached study. This would allow a reduction in the total program from [REDACTED] and 257 man years to about [REDACTED] and 100 man years. CIA's level of effort would fall from [REDACTED] and 180 man years to [REDACTED] and 75 man years.

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4. Recommendation: Since this is a matter which must be brought before USIB under whose auspices this interagency effort has been conducted, I recommend you approve laying before USIB an Agency recommendation to abolish the NIS program. Subsequent to your decision, I will prepare, if necessary, papers for USIB consideration.

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[REDACTED]

EDWARD W. PROCTOR
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Attachment:

D/OBGI Memo for DDI of
27 Apr 73, Same Subject

APPROVED: _____

Date

DISAPPROVED: _____

Date

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